

Update

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For Immediate Release

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Burro Fire Grows to 400 Acres

TUCSON, AZ (March 27, 2006) 12:00 p.m. – Firefighters working on the Burro Fire located about 7 miles southwest of Portal, made good progress Sunday stopping the fire's advancement on the west flank at Forest Trail 240 in Horseshoe Canyon and slowing its progress toward the east near Sulphur Peak

Management of the Burro Fire was transferred this morning to the Eastern Arizona Incident Management Team.

Today fire managers are focusing on the fire's north end where two air tankers have applied retardant. Ground crews have secured the west flank of the fire and are working on the southern end building line toward the east. Other aircraft supporting the suppression effort include one light, one medium and one heavy helicopter and two air attack planes.

Firefighters involved in building line on the ground include three Type 1 hand crews, also known as Hotshots, three Type 2 hand crews including two inmate crews from Douglas and Fort Grant and a regular U.S. Forest Service hand crew.

The fire was estimated by air attack personnel this morning at about 400 acres. It is burning mainly in grass and brush. The fire is currently within the Chiricahua Wilderness on the Douglas Ranger District of the Coronado National Forest. Since the fire is located within designated wilderness boundaries, firefighters are using Minimum Impact Suppression Tactics (MIST). The fire is also located on steep slopes at about 8000 feet elevation, making it difficult to access for crews hiking in to the site.

Fire managers are optimistic that an incoming weather pattern from the south is bringing sufficient moisture to limit the fire's growth. The cause of the fire is under investigation.